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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of the Claims

1. (currently amended) In a system for decoding packetized program information including ancillary program specific information comprising a plurality of hierarchically ordered information tables, said ancillary information being for use in acquiring and decoding packetized program information to provide a video program for display, a method comprising the steps of:

detecting a mismatch between a version number of a first table of said program specific information and a corresponding version number of said first table conveyed in a second table;

ensuring compatibility of said first table version number conveyed in said first and second tables in response to said detected mismatch using a forced compatible version number; and

decoding packetized program information using program specific information including said first and second tables, at least one of said first and second tables including said forced compatible version number, to provide a video program for display,

wherein said step of ensuring compatibility of said first table version number conveyed in said first and second tables includes at least one of the steps of,

substituting a version number for said first table version number conveyed in at least one of (a) said first table, and (b) said second table, to ensure compatibility; and

reverting to a previous version of at least one of (a) said first table, and (b) said second table, to ensure version number compatibility.

2. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein

said first table comprises a channel map associating a transmission channel carrier frequency with data identifiers used to capture datastreams constituting a program conveyed on a broadcast channel, and

said second table contains information for acquiring program specific information conveyed in other tables including identifiers for identifying data packets comprising said

first table.

3. (original) A method according to claim I, including the step of

examining said program specific information for error indications by examining at least one of, (a) an MPEG transport error indicator, (b) an MPEG discontinuity indicator, (c) an MPEG continuity counter, and

decoding said packetized program information in response to said examination determination of an error free condition.

4. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein

said second table conveys a plurality of version numbers corresponding to version numbers conveyed in said plurality of hierarchically ordered information tables, and said detecting step includes the step of,

comparing individual version numbers of said plurality of hierarchically ordered information tables against corresponding individual version numbers conveyed in said second table.

5. (cancelled)

6. (currently amended) A method according to claim ~~5~~ 1, wherein

said substituting step comprises overwriting said first table version number conveyed in at least one of(a) said first table, and (b) said second table, to ensure compatibility.

7. (cancelled)

8. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein

said step of ensuring compatibility of said first table version number conveyed in said first and second tables includes the step of,

initiating acquisition of at least one of (a) a new version of said first table, and (b) a new version of said second table, to ensure version number compatibility.

9. (original) In a system for decoding packetized program information including

ancillary program specific information comprising a plurality of hierarchically ordered information tables, said ancillary information being for use in acquiring and decoding packetized program information to provide a video program for display, a method comprising the steps of:

detecting a mismatch between a version number of a first table of said program specific information and a corresponding version number of said first table conveyed in a second table;

decoding packetized program information by,

disregarding said first table version number conveyed in said first and second tables in response to said detected mismatch and by

applying program specific information including information in said first table.

10. (currently amended) A method according to claim 9, including the steps of,:

examining said program specific information for an error condition; and

decoding said packetized program information in response to the absence of an error condition.

11. (original) A method according to claim 10, wherein

said error condition is indicated by at least one of, (a) an MPEG transport error indicator, (b) an MPEG discontinuity indicator, Cc) an MPEG continuity counter.

12. (original) A method according to claim 9, wherein

said second table conveys a plurality of version numbers corresponding to version numbers conveyed in said plurality of hierarchically ordered information tables, and said detecting step includes the step of,

comparing individual version numbers of said plurality of hierarchically ordered information tables against corresponding individual version numbers conveyed in said second table.

13. (original) In a system for decoding packetized program information including ancillary program specific information comprising a plurality of hierarchically ordered

information tables, said ancillary information being for use in acquiring and decoding packetized program information to provide a video program for display, a method comprising the steps of:

detecting a mismatch between a version number of a first table of said program specific information and a corresponding version number of said first table conveyed in a second table;

re-acquiring a first table of said program specific information in response to said detected mismatch;

examining said re-acquired first table and said second table for a mismatch of said first table version number; and

inhibiting decoding packetized program information in response to said detected mismatch between said re-acquired first table and said second table.

14. (original) A method according to claim 13, wherein

said first table comprises a channel map associating a transmission channel carrier frequency with data identifiers used to capture datastreams constituting a program conveyed on a broadcast channel.

15. (original) A method according to claim 14, including the step of:

indicating in a database said transmission channel is associated with said detected mismatch between said re-acquired first table and said second table.

16. (original) A method according to claim 13, wherein

said second table contains information for acquiring program specific information conveyed in other tables including identifiers for identifying data packets comprising said first table.

17. (currently amended) In a system for decoding packetized program information including ancillary program specific information comprising a plurality of hierarchically ordered information tables, said ancillary information being for use in acquiring and decoding packetized program information to provide a video program for display, a method comprising the steps of:

detecting a mismatch between a version number of a first program specific information table comprising a channel map associating a transmission channel carrier frequency with data identifiers used to capture datastreams constituting a program conveyed on a broadcast channel and a corresponding version number of said first program specific information table conveyed in a second program specific information table;

indicating in a database said transmission channel is associated with said detected mismatch between said first table and said second table; and

inhibiting decoding packetized program information for said transmission channel associated with said detected mismatch in response to said detected mismatch between said re-acquired first table and said second table.

18. (original) A method according to claim 17, wherein

said second table contains information for acquiring program specific information conveyed in other tables including identifiers for identifying data packets comprising said first table.

19. (original) In a system for decoding packetized program information including ancillary program specific information comprising a plurality of hierarchically ordered information tables, said ancillary information being for use in acquiring and decoding packetized program information to provide a video program for display, a method comprising the steps of:

detecting a fault condition in program specific information comprising at least one of, (a) a version number incompatibility between a version number of a first table and a corresponding version number of said first table conveyed in a second table, and (b) a PSI error condition;

indicating in a database said transmission channel is associated with said detected fault condition; and

removing a channel associated with said fault condition from a User's viewable active channel line-up list.

20. (original) A method according to claim 19, wherein

said PSI error condition comprises at least one of, (a) an MPEG transport error, (b) an

MPEG discontinuity error, (c) an MPEG continuity count error, and (d) an error indicated by a variance between successive time stamps.

21. (original) A method according to claim 19, including the step of indicating a channel as being associated with a fault condition in a User's viewable channel line-up list.